

Midwives from afar

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Better English-speaking skills and a greater knowledge of how Canadian health care works are just two barriers known to prevent internationally-trained midwives from practising in Western Canada.

Thanks to a new program funded by the Western and Northern Health Human Resources Planning Forum, called the Multi-jurisdictional Midwifery Bridging Project (MMBP), those midwives will now have the chance to bone up on their skills.

Twenty-four midwives who are chosen to participate will work with both Mount Royal College and the University of British Columbia over seven months, using everything from community placements to online programs to prepare for provincial exams that will allow them to work in Western Canada.

Midwives hoping to work in Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, the Northwest Territories and British Columbia are encouraged to apply.

"The MMBP is being introduced to help increase the number of midwives in Western Canada by assisting those who have trained internationally," said Diane Rach, chair of the Alberta Midwifery Health Disciplines Committee, in a press release.

"They are a great resource that is going untapped in times of health-care provider shortages."

For more information or to apply, visit midwiferybridging.ca.

Applications will be accepted until midnight on Oct. 19.